



# California Farm News

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Cooperating with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

California Field Office · P.O. Box 1258 · Sacramento, CA 95812 · (916) 498-5161 · [www.nass.usda.gov/ca](http://www.nass.usda.gov/ca)

Media Contact: Sarah Hoffman, 1-800-851-1127 · September 26, 2007

## USDA TO EXAMINE HEALTH MANAGEMENT IN BEEF INDUSTRY

SACRAMENTO, September 26, 2007 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture is taking an in-depth look at priority health and management issues facing U.S. beef operations in an effort to help promote the understanding of potential disease threats.

The *Beef 2007-08 Study*, conducted through USDA's National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS), marks the third time NAHMS has focused on cow-calf operations, an important segment of the beef industry. From October through November, representatives of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will survey selected large beef operations in 24 states, including California.

"The *Beef 2007-08 Study* is a grass-roots effort to gather health data on America's beef farms," said Vic Tolomeo, director of the NASS California Field Office. "In order to continue being highly productive, the U.S. beef industry relies on this objective, science-based information regarding successful management practices."

Beef producers will be asked to provide data regarding herd management, herd health, disease prevention practices and numerous other aspects of their operations. The *Beef 2007-08 Study* will identify production practices and health measures that promote efficient production and improve product quality.

Major objectives for this study include:

- Identifying research priorities
- Identifying critical factors limiting production
- Evaluating ways to help mitigate the threat of disease introduction into herds

As with all NAHMS studies, individual responses are kept strictly confidential and used only in combination with other responses to report regional and national estimates. This assures that, regardless of size, participating operations cannot be identified when the results of the study are reported.